

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### LITTLE MISS OCEAN CITY PAGEANT: SISTER SUCCESSION

#### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to most of the traditions that we South Jerseyans enjoy, but now we're back, we're on track, and we're moving forward. The Little Miss Ocean City Pageant was able to make its long-awaited comeback this summer, and in typical South Jersey fashion, history was made. Prior to the pandemic, Antonella Di Antonio was crowned Little Miss Ocean City, but this year, in perfect comeback fashion, Antonella had the privilege of crowning her successor, her younger sister, Arianna. This isn't the first time that sisters won the coveted Little Miss Ocean City title, however, this is the first time, in the history of the O.C. pageant that one sister crowned the other. I want to congratulate both of them for making history, both in their community and in South Jersey as well. Congratulations to Arianna Di Antonio for being crowned this year's Little Miss Ocean City, a stellar accomplishment of which she should be proud. God Bless both of them and all the contestants of the Little Miss Ocean City Pageant, and God Bless America.

### RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST KEN TAYLOR, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DIS- TRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VET- ERAN COMMENDATION

#### HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Specialist Ken Taylor of Plano, Texas.

In 1968, Dallas native, Ken Taylor, began his journey of service by enlisting in the United States Army. Following completion of basic training at Fort Polk, Taylor would later be stationed at Fort Bragg and Fort Hood where he was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and the 1st Armed Division Artillery.

For his service, Specialist Taylor received the National Defense Service Medal.

Upon returning to civilian life, Ken obtained a position as the sports editor for the Grand Prairie Daily News. Despite the rigors of his job, he would also concurrently attend Eastfield College utilizing GI Bill benefits to earn his Associate's degree. In 1972, Mr. Taylor founded the Traveling Classic Bowling Association, the world's largest league, in order to give bowlers the opportunity to bowl in a well-organized traveling league with financial incentives. Ken would later go on to found marketing company, Outback Secrets International prior to his retirement.

Today, Ken volunteers tirelessly on behalf of area veterans through his involvement in several organizations. Taylor assists individuals in navigating the complexities of applying for veterans benefits through his work as a service officer for American Legion Post 321. Additionally, he is an active member of the Collin County Veterans Coalition (CCVC), where he was appointed to the Legislative Committee. In his role with CCVC Ken has advocated for property tax relief for disabled veterans in the State Legislature.

Ken and his wife, Sharon, are the proud parents of son, Kevin. Specialist Ken Taylor demonstrates the qualities of a patriot who has selflessly served our nation and continues to give back within our community.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Specialist Taylor for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

#### BRIAN BATZ

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brian Batz, an Adams 12 Board of Education member on his years of service to the Adams 12 School District.

Brian has been a Board Member of Adams 12 since 2015, and during his tenure, he served as Director of Ward 4. He previously served the Adams 12 community through the Thornton High School IB Parents Group as a board member. He also served as a flag football and soccer coach.

Brian's dedication to the Adams 12 community follows a history of him serving his community. He has served on the Thornton Citizen Police Academy, as a Thornton Water Ambassador, a IT/video/photo assistant to the Northglenn United Methodist Church, a board member for the Burgundy HOA community, and a Denver north photographer for the Rocky Mountain Cocker Rescue. In addition to his contributions to the community, he is a lov-

ing husband and devoted parent to three children.

His dedication to the Adams 12 School District and the larger community has been tremendous, and I extend gratitude for his service to the Adams 12 community and the great State of Colorado. I wish Brian Batz all the best in his future endeavors.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. JAMES CHARLIE LANE

#### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and service of Mr. James Charlie Lane of White Pine, Tennessee. J.C. was born on April 30, 1920 and celebrated his 101st birthday on April 30, 2021.

He was a Veteran of WWII and served in the Navy from March 1941 to August 1946. From 1940 to March 1941, he was an employee of the Civilian Conservation Corps in both Unicoi and the Sugarlands in his birth county, Sevier County.

He volunteered and joined the Navy in March 1941 and was assigned to the USS *Albatross*, where he would qualify as an electrician and would eventually be promoted to electrician first class. Volunteering for a new ship that was commissioned, he became a "plank owner" on the *Wasp* by being one of the original crewmen. By 1944, the *Wasp's* battles would include the islands of Marcus, Wake, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Leyte Gulf and the Japanese homeland. He arrived in Hawaii and then went to the Marshall Islands in May and saw his first action in the Marshall Islands as part of Admiral Halsey's fast carrier fleet at the Marianas. During his time in the Navy, he saw action in the European Theater, to the African Coast, to the Pacific Theater in the Philippines and the five-week long battle for Iwo Jima. His military service went on until almost a year after Armistice Day when Japan formally surrendered as his ship brought soldiers back from Italy and England. He retired as a Chief Petty Officer.

Upon returning to Tennessee, he settled in Sevier County for a short period, then upon getting a job at American Enka, he moved to White Pine in 1951. He retired from American Enka after thirty-six years.

J.C.'s legacy of love includes his marriage to his wife, Ruth, of forty-nine years until she passed in July 1992, and his children who are so proud of his service, Rita Lane Potter, and Betty Jo Lane Moore. He has three grandchildren and four great grandsons.

Madam Speaker, James Charlie Lane faithfully served his country under the most difficult situations possible, and all a WWII Veteran and member of the United States Navy, and I proudly honor his legacy and service to the United States of America.

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.